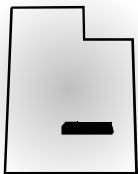


County Trends



Wayne

June 2003

A Local Economic Perspective

Depressing, but not "depression"

There's just not much positive to say about Wayne County's economy. Employment continues to deteriorate and unemployment is trending upward. Also, both sales and construction are down.

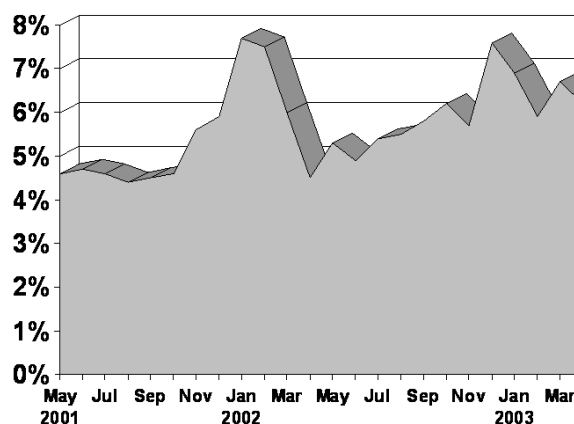
More Job Deterioration

Wayne County started losing employment early in 2002. Since then it's been almost all downhill. By December 2002, job totals were down more than 100 positions from the previous year. This significant 11-percent decrease was felt by nearly all major industries. Manufacturing and healthcare/social services dropped the largest number of jobs. However, retail trade hospitality/leisure services, and local government all showed significant decreases in employment.

Job increases were few and far between on the major industry level. For example, agricultural employment "covered" by unemployment insurance laws showed the largest employment increase—a five-job gain.

In addition, there's no indication that the job hemorrhages have ceased. There could be even more employment contraction in the months ahead.

Seasonally Adjusted Wayne County Unemployment Rates

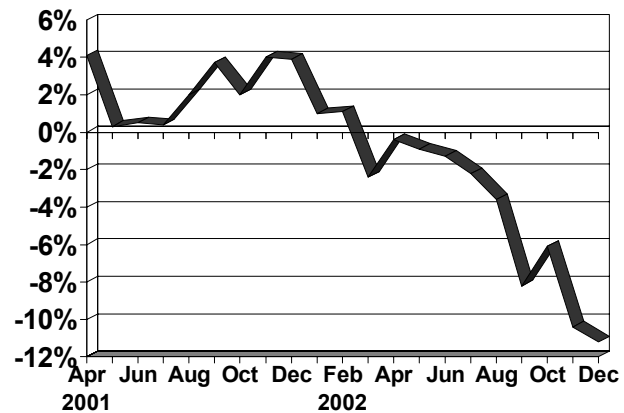


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in Wayne County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

All of Wayne County's economic indicators appear bleak. Jobs have dropped markedly causing unemployment to rise. In addition, the most current figures for construction and sales both display declines. However, based on past experience, the economy should "cycle" back to health within the next year.

Keep in mind that this is a small county. Small changes in the number of jobs may look large when translated into a percent change.

With such a dismal employment scene, there should be no surprise associated with an unemployment rate that has trended upward since early 2002. The most current Wayne County jobless rate (April 2003) registers 6.2 percent. Actually, that rate doesn't measure much higher than the national average (6.0 percent). But, it registers almost a full point higher than the Utah figure (5.3 percent). More importantly, just two short years ago Wayne County's unemployment rate measured below 5 percent.

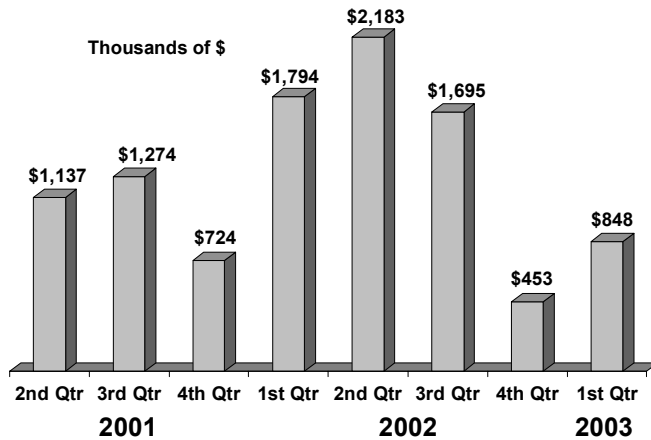
Construction Dips

Construction permitting started the year on a dismal note. Between the first quarters of 2002 and 2003, construction permitting values decreased by 53 percent. Perhaps even more disheartening, all categories of construction—new and additions/alterations/repairs, residential and nonresidential—shared in the demise.

The number of residential permits dropped almost in half, while nonresidential permitting values dropped almost 70 percent. Second quarter 2003 construction figures probably won't be much better in comparison to an abnormally strong second quarter 2002.

Total Wayne County Approved Construction Values

3



Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.

Sales Down, Too

During the past two years, gross taxable sales has experienced quarters of growth. But, to complete this picture of gloom and doom, Wayne County sales displayed a 1.3 percent year-to-year decrease for fourth quarter 2002.

Retail sales actually showed robust expansion. However, it wasn't enough to counteract a large decrease in service industry sales.

It is a Cycle

With so many negative indicators, some might see no light at the end of Wayne County's economic tunnel. However, we call them business "cycles" for a reason. A bad economy typically cycles back into a good economy. While that hasn't happened yet, increased travel within the U.S. could easily nudge the Wayne County economy back to health.

Lecia Parks Langston, Regional Economist
lecialangston@utah.gov, 435-688-3115

Quick Facts

April 2003

Unemployment Rate

Wayne County	6.2%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	6.0%

Dec 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Wayne County	-11.2%
Utah	0.2%
U.S.	-0.2%

1st Qtr 2003 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Wayne County	-52.8%
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4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Sales

Wayne County	-1.3%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
 Bureau of Labor Statistics,
 Utah Tax Commission,
 Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

For more economic information about Wayne County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>

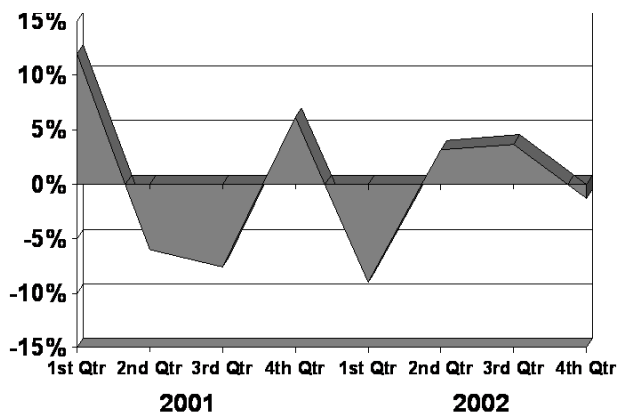
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Year-Over Change in Wayne County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.



Utah!
Where ideas connect™

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



What's Up?

- The Wayne Community Health Center in Bicknell received a \$350,000 loan from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to finance an expansion project. The project will double the size of the clinic's medical area and pharmacy. It also will triple the size of the clinic lab area, add a conference room to be used for patient education and provide office space for employees.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/wayne/wayneee.pdf>

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